

To the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of Congress :

Your memorialist, MRS. FANNIE KELLY, a citizen of the United States, and residing in the State of Kansas, respectfully petitioning your Honorable bodies, represents :

That during the summer months of the year 1864, your memorialist, in company with her husband, JOSIAH KELLY, (now deceased,) and a party consisting of Wm. J. Larimer, wife and child, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Wakefield, and an adopted daughter of your memorialist, (Mary J. Hurley,) left different portions of the State of Kansas to go to Montana Territory. The party united at a point west of the north-western border of Kansas, and journeyed together. Your memorialist and her husband had in their possession, and owned at the time, certain valuable goods and chattles, (a full exhibit of which, with the market value thereof, is hereto attached and made part hereof, marked exhibit "A.") Your memorialists' husband was removing to Bannock City, Montana, with said goods, with a view to enter into trade.

On the 12th day of July, 1864, our party had reached a point miles west of Fort Laramie. While encamped a mixed party of Indians came into our camp, and deporting themselves in a friendly manner, (by shaking hands and other demonstrations of friendship,) asked us for supper. During its preparation, the number of Indians increased to nearly one hundred. They were composed of O-gal-lal-lah, and Yank-ton Sioux, Black-feet, and Rees and Gro-rout Indians, (the latter called "Farmer Indians,") also some Hunc-pa-pas.

It had been represented to our party by the Military Commanders along the route of travel, that there was no danger to be apprehended from Indians; that we were entirely secure from attack, and we continued our journey without any fear.

While these preparations for supper were being made, the Indians who had asked our hospitality, fired upon the men of our party. Mr. Sharp, Mr. Taylor and the colored boy fell dead at the first fire. Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Larimer were dangerously wounded, and hobbled off to the bushes. Your memorialists' husband was gathering wood at the time, and succeeded in escaping without injury. The Indians then surrounded the wagons for the purpose of plunder. They sacked the wagons, burned and destroyed what they could not carry away, and took the survivors of the party prisoners. Your memorialist was dragged rudely from one of the wagons and severely injured, from which she suffered for many months. Your memorialist was then taken into captivity, and was forced to become the squaw of one of the O-gal-lal-lah Chiefs, who treated her in a manner too horrible to mention, and during her captivity was passed from Chief to Chief, and treated in a similar manner. Your memorialist kept as full memoranda of her captivity, and the incidents thereof, as was possible, and has, since her return to her home, reduced the same to a narrative form, embracing the whole period from date of capture to date of release. Your memorialist begs to refer your Honorable bodies to this narrative, as showing in detail something of her sufferings, privations and perils, and especially as presenting the evidence of her valuable services to the United States Troops, which after her capture, entered the war-path against the Indians.

During her captivity, which lasted from July 12, 1864, until December 9, 1864, your memorialist acquired somewhat of the language of the Indians, which numbered two or three thousand, banded for plunder and murder, and was enabled to understand their plans and designs. These your memorialist contrived to communicate, from time to time, to emigrant and freight trains, and to troops. And your memorialist would especially call attention to her valuable service rendered the garrison at Fort Sully, which, it will be seen, contributed largely to the saving that garrison from total massacre. Your memorialist refers to her narrative, exhibit "B," and to letters and other evidences herewith submitted, marked exhibits to show to your Honorable bodies the truth of her statement.

Your memorialist says that some of her captors claimed to be *annuity* Indians, and boasted that they were drawing money and clothing from the white man, while at the same time they had certain of the whites prisoners. The circumstances showing that some of my captors *were* annuity Indians, appear in my narrative.

Your memorialist respectfully urges upon your Honorable bodies, that she is now in destitute circumstances; that all her earthly effects were taken and destroyed by the Indians; that her husband has since died, leaving her helpless and poor; that her adopted daughter was cruelly murdered by her captors, and your memorialist is now alone in the world. She urges that her services to emigrants, traders and United States troops, while she was a captive, often sacrificing her own comfort, and endangering her life, and certainly prolonging her captivity, to render these services, will surely commend her cause to your Honorable bodies. Your memorialist asks some compensation in such sum as may seem mete, and she will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

FANNIE KELLY.